

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-05 COME-00 DODE-00

NSF-02 /022 R

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R 122313Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS STATE 055877

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, PE

SUBJECT: R/V TRIDENT, REQUEST FOR RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR
PERIOD 4-23 APRIL

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY REQUESTED SEEK GOP APPROVAL FOR R/V TRIDENT OF UNIV. OF RHODE ISLAND (URI) TO CONDUCT STUDY OF CHEMICAL OCEANOGRAPHY AND AIR-SEA EXCHANGE IN EL NINO REGION EXTENDING INTO PERUVIAN WATERS DURING PERIOD 4-23 APRIL. GOP SHOULD BE INFORMED URI ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED THIS REQUEST TO DEPT IN OCT 74 AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR DELAY IN TRANSMITTING THIS REQUEST TO EMBASSY WAS ENTIRELY FAULT OF DEPT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF CRUISE IS TO INVESTIGATE EFFECT OF UPWELLING OFF COASTS PERU AND ECUADOR ON CHEMISTRY OF SURFACE WATERS AND ATMOSPHERE THAT AREA. PROGRAMS INCLUDE STUDIES OF CHEMICAL FRACTIONATION AT AIR/SEA INTERFACE; LONG-RANGE TRANSPORT OF ATMOSPHERIC PARTICULATES AND TRACE GASES, CYCLES OF OZONE, SULFUR COMPOUNDS, LIGHT AND HEAVY HYDROCARBONS, AND CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS IN ATMOSPHERE; AND COMPLEXATION CAPACITY AND PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY

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OF UPWELLING WATERS. SPECIFIC PROJECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ATMOSPHERIC PARTICULATE SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM

AIR SAMPLING TOWER ON BOW OF TRIDENT. SOME WILL BE

COLLECTED USING AUTOMATIC SAMPLING TOWER ON BOW OF TRIDENT. SOME WILL BE COLLECTED USING AUTOMATIC SAMPLING SYSTEM AND OTHERS WILL BE COLLECTED MANUALLY. PARTICULATE SAMPLES WILL BE ANALYZED FOR AKALI AND ALKALINE EARTH, AS WELL AS HEAVY METALS, PHOSPHATE, TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON, HEAVIER (N-C-14 TO N-C-34) HYDROCARBONS AND CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS.

B. ATMOSPHERIC TRACE GAS SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM BOW TOWER AND FROM WET LAB. THESE SAMPLES WILL BE ANALYZED FOR O-3, NO-X, LIGHT HYDROCARBONS (ETHANE, ETHYLENE, ACETYLENE), FREONS, SULFUR COMPOUNDS (H-2-S, SO-2, DMS), DDT, PCB, AND HEAVIER HYDROCARBONS (N-C14 TO N-C-34).

C. SURFACE MICROLAYER AND SUBSURFACE (30 CM) SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM TWO ZODIAC BOATS LOCATED AT LEAST 1/4 MILE FROM TRIDENT. SAMPLES OF SURFACE MICROLAYER FOR TRACE METAL AND PHOSPHATE ANALYSIS WILL BE COLLECTED ON POLYPROPYLENE SCREENS AND THOSE FOR ORGANIC ANALYSIS WILL BE COLLECTED ON STAINLESS STEEL SCREENS. SUBSURFACE SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED IN POLYETHYLENE, TEFLON, GLASS, AND METAL CANS FOR THE VARIOUS TRACE METAL AND ORGANIC SUBSTANCES INVESTIGATED.

D. 20-40 LITRES OF SURFACE WATER WILL BE COLLECTED FROM ZODIAC BOAT AWAY FROM SHIP FOR USE IN SHIPBOARD FOAM TOWER STUDIES OF TRACE METAL TRANSPORT TO OCEAN SURFACE BY BUBBLES.

E. LARGE VOLUME (30-LITER) WATER SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED FROM TOP 200 METERS FOR ISOLATION OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF DISSOLVED ORGANIC MATTER, AND DETERMINATION OF CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS, TOTAL COPPER, COMPLEXATION CAPACITY OF WATER, PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY, PHOSPHATE, DISSOLVED OXYGEN, SALINITY, AND TEMPERATURE.

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F. ONE STATION OF APPROXIMATELY 8 HOURS IS PLANNED EACH DAY, BEGINNING EARLY MORNING. SAMPLING FROM ZODIAC BOATS WILL BEGIN AS SOON AS STATION IS OCCUPIED. HYDROCASTS WILL BE MADE AFTER ZODIAC BOATS HAVE RETURNED ON BOARD. ONCE IN UPWELLING REGIONS, ALTERNATE STATIONS WILL BE OCCUPIED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF UPWELLING AREA, AS DETERMINED BY PHOSPHATE, DISSOLVED OXYGEN, PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY,

AND TEMPERATURE OF WATERS.

3. R/V TRIDENT IS OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATED BY URI. DIMENSIONS ARE LENGTH 180 FEET, BEAM 32 FEET, DRAFT 11 FEET, DISPLACEMENT 1021 TONS. MASTER IS CHARLES W. VANDERHOOP WITH CREW OF 18. CHIEF SCIENTIST IS DR. ROBERT DUCE OF URI AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY NUMBERS 13. SCIENTIFIC PARTY INCLUDES ONE OBSERVER FROM ECUADOR. ADDITIONAL OBSERVER FROM PERU COULD BE ACCOMMODATED BUT OBSERVER WOULD HAVE TO ARRANGE OWN TRANSPORTATION TO GUAYAQUIL AND HOME FROM BALBOA. VESSEL'S CALL LETTERS ARE KIEA.

4. VESSEL CURRENTLY PLANS DEPART GUAYAQUIL 4 APRIL ON S/SW COURSE, ARRIVING OFF PERUVIAN COAST APPROXIMATELY 6 APRIL. VESSEL WILL THEN RUN THREE ZIG-ZAG TRACKS ANGLING AWAY FROM AND THEN BACK INTO COAST, PROCEEDING ALONG PERUVIAN COAST TO POINT APP. 150 MILES DUE SOUTH OF LIMA. AFTER REACHING THIS POINT, SHIP WILL COMMENCE SECOND SERIES OF THREE ZIG-ZAGS INTO AND AWAY FROM COAST, COMPLETING ITS WORK OFF PERUVIAN COAST APP. 18 APRIL. ZIG-ZAG TRACKS WILL APPROACH IN SOME CASES TO WITHIN TWO MILES OF COAST AND WILL GENERALLY EXTEND OFFSHORE APP. 150 MILES. VESSEL WILL THEN COMMENCE SEPARATE RESEARCH PROJECT OFF COAST OF ECUADOR FOR WHICH ECUADORIAN CLEARANCE HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED. SHIP WILL THEN PROCEED DIRECTLY TO BALBOA, ARRIVING ON 23 APRIL.

5. URI ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED REQUEST FOR PERUVIAN CLEARANCE FOR THIS PROJECT TO DEPT IN OCTOBER 1974. REQUEST WAS FILED IN DEPT TO BE SENT TO LIMA APP 75 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF CRUISE. HOWEVER, AS RESULT OF TRANSFER OF KEY PERSONNEL AT THAT PRECISE TIME, THIS ITEM ESCAPED FURTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTICE UNTIL URI CALLED DEPT'S ATTENTION TO IT LATE LAST WEEK. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM GOP OF THESE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND EXPRESS HOPE GOP WILL NOT PENALIZE URI FOR DEPT'S MISTAKE.

6. IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR GOP (E.G. EXACT COORDINATES FOR AND POINTS OF ZIG-ZAG TRACKS) PLS CONTACT DEPT IMMEDIATELY. INGERSOLL

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